

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maunula in view of Buchanan. As noted in the previous response, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Buchanan reference of using syngas to regenerate a NOx adsorbing material used to treat the exhaust from an internal combustion engine. Further, the Maunula reference contains no teaching or suggestion of how the syngas of Buchanan, which is used to treat flue gases or any other reducing gas could be used in that system to regenerate the NOx adsorption catalyst.

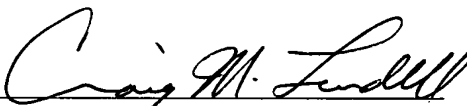
In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to have discounted the limitation of an "internal combustion engine" since it only appeared explicitly in the preamble. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position that it was not a limitation in the claim, by this paper, claim 1 has been amended to add the "internal combustion engine" limitation into the elements of the claim. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the prompt allowance of the claims which could be corrected by telephone interview with Applicant's representative, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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